THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) (a) yes sir, the project "Formulation of National Forestry Action Programme*' was signed with UNDP and FAO in June 1993.

(b) Draft National Forestry Action Programme document is in final stages of compilation.

Import of waste Materials

1123. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of lead ash and other waste material is being imported from different countries resulting into great risk of health and environmental hazards for the countrymen;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where such import is being resorted to and the limitations thereof;

(c) criteria for allowing such import and the names of the companies including multinational companies operating such import in the country;

(d) the next of such import having taken place during the last three years; and

(e) the preventive steps taken to dis pose of such waste?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (e) Wastes such as lead ash and other waste materials are imported only as raw material for processing/reuse in the country.

The import of hazardous wastes is regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these rules, the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal, however, import of such wastes is allowed for reprocessing/reuse as raw material in an environmentally sound manner.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has given only 7 permissions for import of hazardous wastes under the Hazardous Wastes (Management A* Handling) Rules 1989 Statement (See below)." In April 199S, the Export Import Policy (EXIM). was amended and the hazardous wastes were placed in the restricted list. As per the policy, imports are permitted only against a licence and only for the purpose of reprocessing or reuse. The licence for imports are issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). In compliance with the orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, no imports of toxic wastes are being permitted from 10.4.96.

Statement

List of units granted permission to import hazardous wastes under HW Rules

1. *Importer* M/s. Balmer Lawrie ft Co. Calcutta

One time permission for the import of 150 KL of waste oil for trial runs for R&D project in December 1993.

Exporting Country—Dubai

2. *Importer* M/s Southern Refineries Ltd., Trivandrum

One time permission for import of 8000 barrels of waste oil for trial run to demonstrate waste oil re-refining by vacuum distillation technology in 1994.

Exporting country-UK

3. *Importer* M/s Zinc Smelters ft Refin ers India Pvt. Ltd., Bombay

One time permission for the import of single consignment of not exceeding 20,000 Mt of zinc containing residual dusts (steel mill dust) on 20th June, 1994.

Exporting Country—Germany

4. *Importer* M/s Bharat Zinc Ltd., Bhopal

M/s Bharat Zinc Ltd., was given permission to negotiate import of 17,000 MT of zinc ash/residue/dross/scrap from various countries of Europe with a condition that clearance would be sought from time

to time on each consignment by providing necessary shipment details on 8.8.94. The unit based on permission granted, later imported 14,100 MT of zinc wastes. Imports from Germany were also permitted on 12.5.95.

Exporting countries-Germany, The Netherlands & Sweden.

5. *Importer* M/s. Indo-Zinc Ltd., dhar, MP

Permission was granted for import of 1000 MT containing zinc ash/dross/scrap on 8th May, 1995.

Exporting country—The Netherlands

6. *Importer* M/s. Associated Pigments Ltd., Calcutta.

Permission was granted for import of 3,500 MT of lead waste containing lead dross/residue/scrap on 11th December, 1995 as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose under this Ministry.

Exporting country-South Korea

7. Importer M/s. Indian Lead Limited, Bombay

Permission granted only to negotiate the import of lead dross/residue/scrap for use in their Thane unit as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose on 21st November, 1995. No permission has been given for any consignment so far.

"All imports were permitted subject to the requirement under Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 and the conditions stipulated for the purpose.

Survey on Forest Reserves

1124. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on the total forest areas, the forest resources therein and the reasons for the growing degradation of forests;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof according to the last survey; and

(c) the steps taken for the proper preservation of forests and foreset wealth?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of forest cover and growing stock is given in state ment. *(See* below). Main reasons for the degradation of forests are forest fires, grazing, shifting cultivation and wide gap in demand and supply of fuelwood, fod der and Small timber resulting in unsus tainable withdrawal.

(c) Various steps taken for proper pre servation of forests and forests wealth are as follows:

(i) Extensive afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India for afforestation, protection of forests and restoration of ecological balance;

(ii) Various Externally Aided Projects are being implemented for preservation of forests and forest wealth;

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all the State Governments to involve village communities for the regeneration of degraded forests through Joint forest Management;

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands;

(v) A Network of Protected areas has been created.